

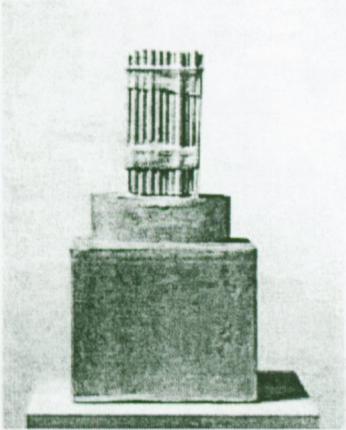
# National Gallery of Art

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Press Officer: Deborah Ziska

CONTACT: Domenic Morea, Publicist  
(202) 842-6358, d-morea@nga.gov



*Untitled, Rome, 1959*  
Kunsthhaus. Zurich

**"CY TWOMBLY: THE SCULPTURE,"**  
**FIRST MAJOR RETROSPECTIVE**  
**OF ARTIST'S SCULPTURE ON VIEW**  
**AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART,**  
**MAY 6 – JULY 29, 2001**

Washington, D.C. – Cy Twombly: The Sculpture, the first major survey of the artist's three-dimensional works, will be on view in the West Building of the National Gallery of Art from May 6 through July 29, 2001. The exhibition, previously on view at the Kunstmuseum Basel and The Menil Collection, Houston, brings together 58 of the artist's sculptures, spanning the years from 1946 to the present. Before this retrospective, many of the objects had rarely been shown.

"Cy Twombly is one of the most distinguished artists of the postwar period. His sculpture is remarkable both for its haunting beauty and its poetic allusions to motifs and relics of classical antiquity," said Earl A. Powell III, director, National Gallery of Art. "This first sculpture retrospective will certainly attract long-deserved attention to Twombly's substantial contribution to twentieth-century sculpture."

### THE EXHIBITION

Cy Twombly: The Sculpture is devoted to an impressive but less familiar body of the artist's work than his paintings and drawings. The exhibition features works, mostly small and medium in scale, representing two major sculptural campaigns: 1948 to 1959 and 1976 to 1998.

Composed primarily of rough fragments of wood coated in plaster and white paint, Twombly's sculpture is rooted in various prominent movements in modern art, including the dadaist and surrealist traditions of assemblage and found-object sculpture. His work alludes to artifacts of the archaic past—tribal fetishes, reliquaries, altars, chariots, and architectural fragments—and incorporates poetry and mythological themes from Greek and Roman antiquity.

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The exhibition includes outstanding examples of Twombly's early works, such as Untitled, New York 1954, which exemplifies his preoccupation with the themes of ritual and mortality. In this sculpture, Twombly uses both palm fronds, symbolic of eternal life, and a shrinelike plinth, suggesting the cult of the dead. Another early piece, Untitled [Rome], 1959, demonstrates the introduction of ancient mythology into his work. Formed by eleven bound rods placed on a corrugated cardboard box, this sculpture suggests an archaic panpipe resting on an altar, alluding to Pan, an Arcadian fertility deity.

Several recurring motifs appear in later sculptures in the exhibition. Untitled, Bassano in Teverina 1979 and Anabasis, Bassano in Teverina 1980, recall ancient battle chariots—allusions to archaic warfare which Twombly explores in other works. Winter's Passage: Luxor, Porto Ercole 1985, an important later sculpture, employs another prominent motif, the boat, and reveals the influence of Egyptian art on Twombly's work. Untitled, Bassano in Teverina 1987, a two-tiered pyramid, shows the artist's special fascination with architectural elements.

### THE ARTIST

Cy Twombly was born on April 25, 1928, in Lexington, Virginia. He studied at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Washington and Lee University in Virginia, and the Art Students League in New York. His subsequent study at the renowned school for the arts, Black Mountain College, in North Carolina, strongly influenced his early development.

In the early 1950s, following extended travel in Italy, Spain, and North Africa, Twombly returned to New York and emerged as a prominent figure among a group of artists working there, including Jasper Johns and Robert Rauschenberg. By the end of the 1950s Twombly had relocated to Italy, married, and discontinued his work in sculpture, preferring to focus on his drawings and paintings. In 1976 Twombly returned to sculpture, and since that time has consistently created both spare wooden constructions and bronze casts. To date, Twombly has created over 150 works of sculpture, the most significant of which are included in the Gallery exhibition.

### ORGANIZERS AND CATALOGUE

Cy Twombly: The Sculpture was co-organized by The Menil Collection, Houston, and the Öffentliche Kunstsammlung Basel. Jeffrey Weiss, curator of modern and contemporary art at the National Gallery of Art, is coordinating the Washington installation, which Twombly himself will supervise. A fully illustrated exhibition catalogue (in English and German) by Katharina Schmidt, director, Öffentliche Kunstsammlung Basel, is available for \$55 in the Gallery Shops, or by calling 1(800) 697-9350.

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## SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

### Slide Lectures

Sunday, May 6, 2:00 p.m.

The "in-two" of Twombly's Sculpture

Rosalind Krauss, Meyer Schapiro Professor of Modern Art and Theory, Columbia University, New York

East Building auditorium

Thursday, May 17, 6:00 p.m.

The Sculpture of Cy Twombly

Kirk Varnedoe, chief curator, department of painting and sculpture, The Museum of Modern Art, New York

East Building auditorium

### Tours of the Exhibition

Tours begin at the West Building art information desk. For dates and times, please consult the calendar of events there, the Gallery's Web site at [www.nga.gov](http://www.nga.gov), or call (202) 842-6706. No reservations are required. Tours by special appointment may be arranged for adult groups of twenty or more by calling (202) 842-6247.

For information about accessibility to galleries and public areas, assistive listening devices, sign language interpretation, and other services, please inquire at the art information desks, access the Web site at [www.nga.gov](http://www.nga.gov), or call (202) 842-6690.

## NATIONAL GALLERY INFORMATION

The National Gallery of Art and its Sculpture Garden, located on the National Mall between Third and Ninth Streets, NW, are open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free. For information, call (202) 737-4215; Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (202) 842-6176; or visit the Gallery's Web site at [www.nga.gov](http://www.nga.gov).

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# National Gallery of Art

Washington, D.C.

## Cy Twombly: The Sculpture

Checklist

National Gallery of Art 6 May - 29 July 2001

- J-peg image available
- Slide available in exhibition slide packet

1. *Untitled*  
Lexington, 1946  
wood and metal  
36.8 x 8.9 x 9.2 cm (14 1/2 x 3 1/2 x 3 5/8)  
Daros Collection, Switzerland
2. *Untitled*  
Lexington, 1948  
wood, porcelain knobs, metal curtain tie-back, cloth, and house paint  
35.8 x 26.7 x 30.5 cm (14 1/8 x 10 1/2 x 12)  
Collection of the artist, Rome
3. *Untitled*  
● New York, 1953  
□ wood, wire, twine, nails, house paint, and wax on cloth  
38.1 x 25 x 10.1 cm (15 x 9 7/8 x 4)  
Collection of Robert Rauschenberg
4. *Untitled*  
New York, 1954  
wood, glass, mirrors, cloth, twine, wire, wooden spoons, oil crayon, house paint, and wax  
203.2 x 35 x 28 cm (80 x 13 3/4 x 11)  
Cy Twombly Gallery, The Menil Collection, Houston
5. *Untitled*  
● New York, 1954  
□ wood, palm leaves, twine, house paint, cloth, nails, and wire  
139 x 60 x 12.4 cm (54 3/4 x 23 5/8 x 4 7/8)  
Collection of the artist, Rome
6. *Untitled*  
New York, 1955  
wood, wooden spoons, house paint, cloth, glue, and nails  
105 x 15.5 x 15.5 cm (41 3/8 x 6 1/8 x 6 1/8)  
Collection of the artist, Rome
7. *Untitled*  
New York, 1955  
wood, wooden spoons, cloth, nails, house paint, and rope  
29.8 x 30.5 x 18.4 cm (11 3/4 x 12 x 7 1/4)  
Collection of the artist, Rome

8. *Untitled*  
New York, 1955  
wood, cloth, twine, and house paint  
56.5 x 14.3 x 13 cm (22 1/4 x 5 5/8 x 5 1/8)  
Collection of the artist, Rome
  
9. *Untitled*,  
● Rome, 1959  
wood, cloth, cardboard, house paint, and nail  
67 x 34 x 27 cm (26 3/8 x 13 3/8 x 10 5/8)  
Kunsthaus Zürich
  
10. *Untitled*  
New York, 1959  
wood, plastic leaf, plaster, pigment, and house paint  
70.4 x 34.6 x 39.4 cm (27 3/4 x 13 5/8 x 15 5/8)  
Collection of the artist, Rome
  
11. *Untitled*  
Rome, 1976  
cardboard tubes, cloth, house paint, and paper tape  
193.6 x 16.8 x 16.8 cm (76 1/4 x 6 5/8 x 6 5/8)  
Collection of the artist, Rome
  
13. *Untitled*  
Rome, 1978  
wood, cloth, wire, nails, and paint  
43.8 x 222.2 x 17.8 cm (17 1/4 x 87 1/2 x 7)  
Cy Twombly Gallery, The Menil Collection, Houston
  
14. *Cygnus*  
● Rome, 1978  
□ wood, palm leaf, paint, and nails  
40.6 x 24.7 x 5.7 cm (16 x 9 3/4 x 2 1/4)  
Collection of the artist, Rome
  
15. *Orpheus (Thou unending trace)*  
● Rome, 1979  
wood, nails, paint, and graphite  
266 x 244.5 x 22.2 cm (104 3/4 x 96 1/4 x 8 3/4)  
Collection of the artist, Rome
  
16. *Untitled*  
Bassano in Teverina, 1979  
plaster and sand  
49 x 42 x 22 cm (19 3/8 x 16 5/8 x 8 3/4)  
Kunsthaus Zürich
  
17. *Untitled*  
Bassano in Teverina, 1979 (cast Rome 1979)  
bronze, edition 4/6  
47.6 x 45.7 x 22.8 cm (18 3/4 x 18 x 9)  
Collection of the artist, Rome

18. *Untitled*  
● Bassano in Teverina, 1979  
□ wood, plaster, sand, nails, and paint  
177.1 x 60 x 63.5 cm (69 3/4 x 23 5/8 x 25)  
Collection of the artist, Rome
19. *Untitled*  
Bassano in Teverina, 1980  
wood, nails, clay, metal, and paint  
202.7 x 59 x 39.7 cm (79 7/8 x 23 1/4 x 15 5/8)  
Private collection, Rome
20. *Untitled*  
Bassano in Teverina, 1980  
wood, nails, paint, wire, and metal strapping  
273 x 41.4 x 64.8 cm (107 1/2 x 16 3/8 x 25 1/2)  
Collection of the artist, Rome
22. *Untitled*  
Bassano in Teverina, 1980  
plaster and sand  
36 x 36.5 x 27 cm (14 1/8 x 14 x 10 5/8)  
Collection of the artist, Rome
23. *Anabasis*  
● Bassano in Teverina, 1980  
□ wood, clay, plywood, metal strips, nails, paint, cloth, casters, paper, and staples  
116.8 x 48.9 x 49.5 cm (46 x 19 1/4 x 19 1/2)  
Collection of the artist, Rome
24. *The Keeper of Sheep*  
Bassano in Teverina, 1980  
wood, palm leaves, plaster, wire, nails, clay, metal strips, glue, and paint  
192.6 x 91.2 x 94 cm (75 7/8 x 36 x 37)  
Private collection, Rome
25. *Aurora*  
Rome, 1981  
wood, plastic flower, wire, twine, plaster, nails, and paint  
134.6 x 109.5 x 21.1 cm (53 x 43 1/8 x 8 3/8)  
Private collection, Rome
26. *Anadyomene*  
● Bassano in Teverina, 1981  
wood, nails, crayon, paint, cloth, and screw eye  
47 x 57.1 x 73.6 cm (18 1/2 x 22 1/2 x 29)  
Private collection, Rome
27. *Untitled*  
● Formia, 1981  
□ wood, nails, cord, paint, and screw eyes  
152 x 88.4 x 33.6 cm (59 7/8 x 34 7/8 x 13 1/4)  
Private collection, Rome

28. *Thicket*  
Formia-Rome, 1981  
wood, wicker, plastic flowers, nails, wire, and paint  
123.8 x 29.8 x 54.6 cm (48 3/4 x 11 3/4 x 21 1/2)  
Collection of the artist, Rome
29. *Untitled*  
Bassano in Teverina, 1981  
wood, webbing, thread, plastic and metal casters, wire, nails, and paint  
154.3 x 39.4 x 38.4 cm (60 3/4 x 15 1/2 x 15 1/8)  
Collection of the artist, Rome
31. *Untitled*  
Rome, 1983 (cast Rome 1983)  
bronze, edition 5/6  
141.6 x 24.1 x 32.4 cm (55 3/4 x 9 1/2 x 12 3/4)  
Cy Twombly Gallery, The Menil Collection, Houston
33. *Untitled*  
● Rome, 1983 (cast Rome 1983)  
□ painted bronze, edition 2/5  
176 x 22.8 x 41 cm (69 3/8 x 9 x 16 1/8)  
Private collection, Rome
34. *Untitled*  
Rome, 1983 (cast Pfäffikon 1998)  
painted bronze, edition 2/4  
82 x 55.8 x 52 cm (32 1/4 x 22 x 20 1/2)  
Collection of the artist, Rome
35. *Untitled*  
Gaeta, 1984 (cast Rome 1987)  
painted bronze and graphite, edition 2/4  
120.6 x 36.2 x 57.1 cm (47 1/2 x 14 1/4 x 22 1/2)  
Private collection
36. *Untitled*  
Rome, 1984/1985  
wood, plaster, nails, paint, and metal fastener  
51.3 x 52.7 x 23.7 cm (20 1/4 x 20 3/4 x 9 3/8)  
Collection of the artist, Rome
37. *Winter's Passage: Luxor*  
● Porto Ercole, 1985  
□ wood, nails, paint, paper, glue, and traces of copper sulphate  
53.5 x 105 x 51 cm (21 1/8 x 41 3/8 x 20 1/8)  
Kunsthaus Zürich
38. *Untitled*  
Bassano in Teverina, 1985  
□ wood, plaster, plastic leaf, nails, pigment, and paint  
33 x 46 x 60.3 cm (13 x 18 1/8 x 23 3/4)  
Cy Twombly Gallery, The Menil Collection, Houston

39. *Untitled*  
Gaeta, 1985  
wood, plaster, nails, paint, iron ring, and metal fastener  
82.1 x 74 x 34.2 cm (32 3/8 x 29 3/4 x 13 1/2)  
Öffentliche Kunstsammlung Basel, Kunstmuseum, Arnold Rüdlinger Fund
41. *Rotalla*  
Gaeta, 1986  
wood, metal, cloth, nails, and paint  
72 x 71 x 52 cm (28 3/8 x 28 x 20 1/2)  
Kunsthaus Zürich
42. *Rotalla*  
● Gaeta, 1986 (cast Pfäffikon 1990)  
bronze, edition 2/6  
71.1 x 68 x 50.1 cm (28 x 26 3/4 x 19 3/4)  
Cy Twombly Gallery, The Menil Collection, Houston
43. *In Time the Wind Will Come and Destroy My Lemons*  
Rome, 1987  
wood, plaster, nails, and paint  
26.2 x 97.8 x 50.1 cm (10 3/8 x 38 1/2 x 19 3/4)  
Collection of the artist, Rome
44. *Ctesiphon*  
● Gaeta, 1987  
wood, plaster, metal strips, nails, paint, and wire  
65.4 x 90.8 x 52.7 cm (25 3/4 x 35 3/4 x 20 3/4)  
Collection of the artist, Rome
45. *Untitled*  
Rome, 1987  
wood, nails, twine, paper, paint, plaster, and plywood  
123.2 x 41.3 x 41.3 cm (48 1/2 x 16 1/4 x 16 1/4)  
Collection of the artist, Rome
46. *By the Ionian Sea*  
Gaeta, 1987  
wood, nails, plaster, clay, glue, pencil, and paint  
33 x 62 x 51.5 cm (13 x 24 1/2 x 20 1/4)  
Kunsthaus Zürich
47. *Untitled*  
● Bassano in Teverina, 1987  
wood, plaster, nails, clay, paint, and crayon  
128.9 x 152 x 29.8 cm (50 3/4 x 59 7/8 x 11 3/4)  
Collection of the artist, Rome
48. *Untitled*  
Bassano in Teverina, 1988  
wood, plaster, clay, and traces of paint  
32.4 x 35.5 x 21 cm (12 3/4 x 14 x 8 1/4)  
Collection of the artist, Rome

49. *Untitled*  
Bassano in Teverina, 1989  
wood, plaster, nails, and paint  
75.6 x 31.1 x 32.7 cm (29 3/4 x 12 1/4 x 12 7/8)  
Collection of the artist, Rome
50. *Untitled*  
Gaeta, 1990  
wood, cloth, plastic flowers, wire, clay, paint, metal, wax, and thread  
167.6 x 35 x 34.3 cm (66 x 13 3/4 x 13 1/2)  
Collection of the artist, Rome
51. *Thicket (Thicket of Ur)*  
Gaeta, 1990  
bamboo, metal, wood, wire, wooden tags, paint, graphite, and plaster  
188.3 x 38.1 x 36.2 cm (74 1/8 x 15 x 14 1/4)  
Öffentliche Kunstsammlung Basel, Kunstmuseum, Arnold Rüdinger Fund
52. *Thicket (Thickets of Akkad – Sumer)*  
● Gaeta, 1991  
□ wood (tree trunk), cement, wire, twine, paper, wooden tags, paint, nails, and ink  
260.3 x 58.4 x 57.1 cm (102 1/2 x 23 x 22 1/2)  
Collection of the artist, Rome
53. *Thermopylae*  
● Gaeta, 1991  
□ plaster on wicker, coarsely woven cloth, graphite, wooden sticks, and plaster-coated cloth flowers on plastic stems  
137 x 89 x 66 cm (54 x 35 x 26)  
Cy Twombly Gallery, The Menil Collection, Houston
54. *Thermopylae*  
Gaeta, 1991 (cast Meudon 1992)  
bronze, edition 3/3  
137 x 89 x 66 cm (54 x 35 x 26)  
Cy Twombly Gallery, The Menil Collection, Houston
55. *(To F. P.) The Keeper of Sheep*  
Jupiter Island, 1992  
wood, cloth, plaster, nails, and paint  
194.6 x 29.2 x 63.5 cm (76 5/8 x 11 1/2 x 25)  
Collection of the artist, Lexington
56. *Untitled*  
Jupiter Island, 1992  
wood and plaster  
48.2 x 33.6 x 44.4 cm (19 x 13 1/4 x 17 1/2)  
Cy Twombly Gallery, The Menil Collection, Houston
61. *Epitaph*  
● Jupiter Island, 1992  
□ wood, plaster, plywood, and paint  
40.7 x 38.7 x 38.1 cm (16 x 15 1/4 x 15)  
Cy Twombly Gallery, The Menil Collection, Houston

62. *Thicket*  
● Jupiter Island, 1992  
wood, plastic leaves, plaster, and paint  
47.8 x 33.8 x 23.5 cm (18 7/8 x 13 3/8 x 9 1/4)  
Cy Twombly Gallery, The Menil Collection, Houston
63. *Madame d'O*  
Jupiter Island, 1992  
wood, palm frond, metal, wire, plaster, and paint  
177.8 x 40.6 x 27 cm (70 x 16 x 10 5/8)  
Collection of the artist, Lexington
64. *Untitled*  
Gaeta, 1993  
painted iron pot, paper bag, and dried flower  
78.1 x 36.2 x 37.1 cm (30 3/4 x 14 1/4 x 14 5/8)  
Collection of the artist, Rome
65. *Vulci Chronicle*  
Gaeta, 1995  
wood, paint, palm fronds, and plaster  
27.9 x 61.3 x 33 cm (11 x 24 1/8 x 13)  
Collection of the artist, Rome
66. *Untitled*  
Gaeta, 1998  
wood, plaster, wire, plastic flower pot, and paint  
128.6 x 24.1 x 19.9 cm (50 5/8 x 9 1/2 x 7 7/8)  
Collection of the artist, Rome
- Untitled*  
Lexington, 2000 (cast New York 2001)  
bronze  
235.5 x 58.4 x 78.7 cm (92 3/4 x 23 x 31)  
Property of the artist